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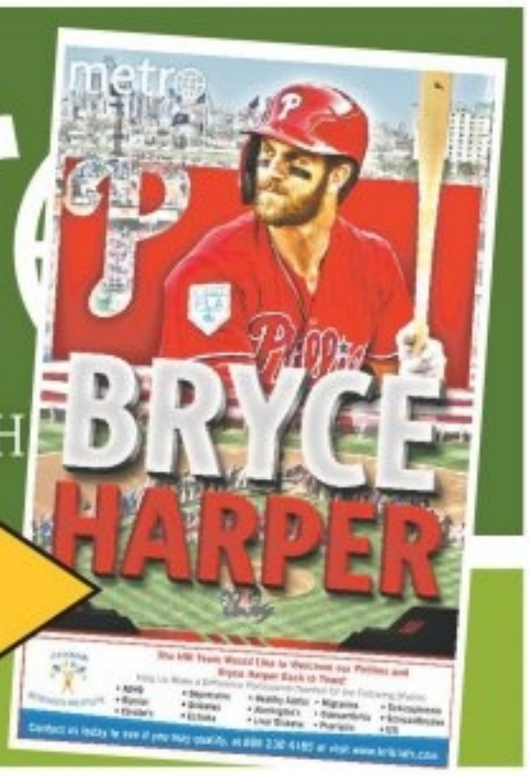

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SPRING PHEVER

New-look Phillies get set to kick off 2019 season today vs. Braves. 24-28

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US jury says Bayer must pay $80M to man in Roundup cancer trial

A U.S. jury on Wednesday awarded $80 million to a man who claimed weed killer caused his non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

The jury in San Francisco federal court said the company was liable for plaintiff Edwin Hardeman's non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

It awarded $5 million in compensatory damages and $75 million in punitive damages to Hardeman after finding that Roundup was defectively designed, that Monsanto failed to warn of the herbicide's cancer risk and that the company acted negligently.

Bayer bought Roundup maker Monsanto last year for $63 billion.

The company in a statement on Wednesday said it was disappointed with the jury's decision and that it would appeal the verdict.

"This verdict does not change the weight of over four decades of extensive science and the conclusions of regulators worldwide that support the safety of our glyphosate-based herbicides and that they are not carcinogenic," Bayer said.

The company added that the verdict in Hardeman's case had no impact on future cases and trials, "as each one has its own factual and legal circumstances."

The trial is only the second of more than 11,200 Roundup lawsuits set to go to trial in the United States. Previous litigation setbacks and a prior jury verdict against the company have sent Bayer shares plunging.

The verdict comes after the same jury on March 19 found Roundup to have been a "substantial factor" in causing Hardeman's cancer, allowing the trial to proceed to a second phase to determine liability and damages. Bayer shares fell more than 12 percent after last week's jury finding.

In the trial's second phase, Hardeman's lawyers were able to present previously excluded internal documents allegedly showing the company's efforts to influence scientists and regulators about the widely-used product's safety.

Lawyers for Hardeman were seen by a Reuters reporter cheering in the elevator outside the courtroom after the verdict was announced.

"As demonstrated throughout trial, since Roundup's inception over 40 years ago, Monsanto refuses to act responsibly," Hardeman's lawyers said in a statement, adding that the company instead focused on "manipulating public opinion and undermining anyone who raises genuine and legitimate concerns about Roundup."

"HASN'T SUNK IN"

After the verdict, Hardeman told reporters he was "overwhelmed."

"It hasn't sunk in yet," he said.

Hardeman's case was considered a bellwether trial to help determine the range of damages and define settlement options for the more than 760 other federal cases pending in the same court before U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria.

In the first trial phase of Hardeman's case, the jury deliberated for more than four days before finding Roundup responsible for the man's cancer. Bayer on Wednesday said that was an indication that jurors were "very likely divided over the scientific evidence."

The company said its appeal would focus on legal rulings by Chhabria, who allowed some of Hardeman's scientific experts to testify despite calling plaintiffs' expert opinions "shaky" in a 2018 ruling.

But legal experts have noted that the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which oversees the San Francisco federal court, has generally been permissive in allowing expert testimony.

Monsanto's Roundup was the first to contain glyphosate, the world's most widely used weed killer. But it is no longer patent-protected and many other versions are available. Bayer does not provide sales figures for the product.

ALL IMAGES REUTERS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the European Chemicals Agency and other regulators have found that glyphosate is not likely carcinogenic to humans. The World Health Organization's cancer arm in 2015 reached a different conclusion, classifying glyphosate as "probably carcinogenic to humans."

In the first U.S. Roundup trial, another California man was awarded $289 million in August after a state court jury found Roundup caused his cancer. That award was later reduced to $78 million and is on appeal.

Hardeman's case featured a significant difference from that trial after Chhabria decided to split cases before him into two phases: one to decide causation on purely scientific grounds, the other to determine Bayer's potential liability and damages only if the jury first ruled that the weed killer was a substantial factor in causing cancer.

That decision had been seen as beneficial to Bayer. Legal experts said the jury's verdict in the first phase of the Hardeman case was a significant setback, narrowing the company's legal options going forward.

Chhabria has scheduled another bellwether trial for May and a third trial is likely to also take place this year. All three will be split into causation and liability phases.

Bayer is also scheduled to face another Roundup trial in California state court beginning on March 28 and at least two trials in Missouri state court in the fall.

REUTERS

2 Lawsuit: TGI Fridays Potato Skins contain no potatoes

It is acceptable to sell French fries that are not made in France, but a new lawsuit says it is not acceptable to sell "potato skin" snack chips that are not made from potato skins. A New York City woman on Wednesday sued TGI Fridays in a proposed class action claiming that the company, known for its restaurants, misleads consumers by selling Potato Skins snacks that contain potato flakes and potato starch, but no skins. The lawsuit by Solange Troncoso said the Idaho Potato Commission and others inside and outside the industry have associated potato skins with healthy eating since they started appearing on restaurant menus a half-century ago. It said TGI Fridays' misleading packaging for its bacon ranch, cheddar and bacon, and sour cream and onion Potato Skins snacks defrauded Troncoso and other consumers into purchasing an "inferior product."

3 Rogen, Goldberg launch Canadian cannabis company

Following the likes of Willie Nelson, Snoop Dogg, Wiz Khalifa, Whoopi Goldberg and Melissa Etheridge, the latest to enter the burgeoning legal-cannabis market are Hollywood heavies Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg. The two longtime collaborators, both natives of Vancouver, today announced Houseplant, which is described as "an elevated Canadian Cannabis company" with a focus on "product and quality, education and guidance." Canada legalized marijuana in Fall 2018. The first strain, Houseplant Sativa, will be available for purchase next month in British Columbia, to be followed by the Houseplant Hybrid and Indica lines, which will be available in flower form along with softgels and pre-rolled joints. Eventually, retailers all over Canada will be able to carry Houseplant products. The company is partnered with Canopy Growth.

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Bottles of Johnson & Johnson baby powder line a drugstore shelf. REUTERS

New Jersey jury finds J&J not liable in latest talc cancer trial

J&J, which faces some 13,000 talc-related lawsuits nationwide, denies its talc causes cancer.

A New Jersey jury on Wednesday cleared Johnson & Johnson of liability in a lawsuit brought by a man who said that asbestos in the company's talcum powder products caused his mesothelioma.

The jury delivered its unanimous verdict in Middlesex County Superior Court in New Brunswick, just miles from J&J's headquarters, in the case of plaintiff Ricardo Rimondi.

J&J, which faces some 13,000 talc-related lawsuits nationwide, denies that its talc causes cancer, saying numerous studies and tests by regulators worldwide have shown its talc to be safe and asbestos-free.

J&J in a statement said the company's track record in the talc litigation underscored "the decades of clinical evidence and scientific studies by medical experts around the world" supporting the safety of Johnson's Baby Powder.

J&J shares, which had been down slightly, turned positive after the verdict was announced and closed up 13 cents at $138.70.

"It remains true that of all the talc-related verdicts against Johnson & Johnson that have been through the appeals process, every one has been overturned."
Johnson & Johnson statement

Lawyers for the 58-year old Rimondi could not immediately be reached for comment.

Rimondi in 2016 was diagnosed with mesothelioma, a type of cancer that has been linked to asbestos exposure.

He and his wife sued J&J in 2017. They alleged that Rimondi's lifetime exposure to Johnson's Baby Powder and Shower to Shower, another powder product containing talc sold by J&J in the past, caused his disease.

The jury returned its verdict in favor of the company after just half an hour of deliberations, according to a livestream of the proceedings by Courtroom View Network.

The health care conglomerate to date has faced 12 trials by plaintiffs claiming asbestos in talc caused their mesothelioma.

J&J has now been cleared of liability in four trials, with another five resulting in hung juries and mistrials. Three juries have found J&J liable, awarding a total of $172 million in damages. J&J is appeal-

Executive Vice President of Johnson & Johnson Peter Fasolo. GETTY IMAGE

ing those verdicts.

The majority of the 13,000 talc lawsuits against the company involve ovarian cancer claims. Juries in those cases have hit the company with verdicts as high as $4.69 billion. Some of the ovarian cancer verdicts have been overturned on appeal on technical legal grounds, while the company's other appeals are still pending.

"It remains true that of all the talc-related verdicts against Johnson & Johnson that have been through the appeals process, every one has been overturned," the company said in its statement on Wednesday.

Plaintiffs' lawyers have more recently focused on arguing that asbestos contamination in talc caused ovarian cancer and mesothelioma.

$4.69B

Juries in cases involving ovarian cancer claims have hit J&J with verdicts as high as $4.69 billion.

Reuters in December published a report detailing that the company knew that the talc in its raw and finished powders sometimes tested positive for small amounts of asbestos from the 1970s into the early 2000s — test results the company did not disclose to regulators or consumers.

J&J denies the findings of the Reuters report, which it describes as inaccurate and misleading. In emphasizing the safety of its baby powder, the company says that repeated tests of the powder never found asbestos and that it has cooperated fully and openly with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and other global regulators. REUTERS

Johnson & Johnson is one of the top 10 most admired companies in the world, according to Fortune magazine. GETTY

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REUTERS

Britain's Theresa May says she will quit if her Brexit deal passes

May's announcement is the latest dramatic turn in the U.K.'s Brexit crisis.

British Prime Minister Theresa May offered on Wednesday to quit to get her European Union divorce deal through parliament, but the Northern Irish party crucial to getting the vote through were unmoved and said they would reject it again.

The move by the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), which could have convinced many rebels in May's own Conservative party to back her, made it highly unlikely that she could get her deal through at the third attempt.

Brussels had given May until Friday to get the deal through and said if she did not, it expected Britain to ask for a longer delay to its departure from the E.U.

"We will not be supporting the government if they table a fresh meaningful vote," the DUP said in a statement. Deputy party leader Nigel Dodds made clear in a tweet that this meant they would be voting against.

"I know there is a desire for a new approach in the second phase of the Brexit negotiations — and I won't stand in the way of that."

Theresa May

While May's departure would not alter the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement, it could give Conservative euroskeptics who have opposed it a greater say in negotiating the terms of Britain's future relationship with the E.U.

"I have heard very clearly the mood of the parliamentary party," May told a meeting of Conservative lawmakers (MPs).

"I know there is a desire for a new approach — and new leadership — in the second phase of the Brexit negotiations — and I won't stand in the way of that."

May's gesture is the latest dramatic turn in the United Kingdom's three-year Brexit crisis, but it still remains uncertain how, when or even whether it will leave the E.U.

If May does go, she will become the fourth Conservative prime minister in a row to have fallen foul of divisions over Europe within her centuries-old party, following David Cameron, John Major and Margaret Thatcher.

REUTERS

Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! The wonderful world of furries and pet play

ASK PHIIRST:

Whether you're partnered or single, investing in your mental health doesn't have to be a solo journey. No one knows this better than the Philadelphia Institute for Individual, Relational & Sex Therapy (PhIIRST). At the end of the day, it's all about braving life's challenges so that you can be your best self.

Curious about exploring pet play or dipping your toes into the furry community? It's a fast-growing subculture that provides a healthy (and fun!) outlet for people of all stripes. Metro connected with Carly Goodkin, sexuality researcher and therapist at PhIIRST, to break down the ins and outs of these communities.

What does it mean to be a furry?

A furry is someone who has an interest in anthropomorphic animals, so animals with human characteristics. These animals are commonplace in our society, especially in advertising and movies (think Tony the Tiger or Simba and Nala). Lots of people who identify as furries have a "fursona," which is akin to an avatar or alter ego that someone can role play as or identify with when they interact with other members of the furry community, whether that's online or in person.

How is pet play different?

Pet play is a form of role play in which one or multiple participants adopt the role of an animal. The idea is for people to enter into what they imagine an animal's headspace to be for a period of time. They might engage in pet-like behavior like eating out of a dish on the ground, sleeping in a kennel, or being trained to do tricks and receiving treats. Pet play is often, but not always, associated with kink or BDSM communities or practices.

What are the biggest misconceptions?

One of the biggest is that being a furry is all about sex. One academic study found that fewer than half of all furry respondents stated that sexual attraction to furry content was a motivator for their participation. For many people, being a furry is closer to a hobby than it is a kink. It allows for self-exploration, artistic and creative expression, and access to a warm and inclusive community. Furry experiences can be sexual at some times for some people, but that's actually not the most common practice.

For pet play, a huge misconception is that it's the same as bestiality. To be very clear, wanting to role play as an animal doesn't mean you want to have sex with biological animals. People often enjoy pet play because it gives them access to an altered headspace. If you've spent all day in a stressful office environment, it can be really nice to come home and enter into that space without a care in the world and just enjoy the stimuli around you with joy and enthusiasm.

How can I share with my partner that I'm interested in this?

Anticipate the misconceptions and address them head on. There are YouTube videos and channels dedicated to talking about pet play or being a furry. You can also go to online forums and support groups so you feel like you have a community behind you that supports you. You can find some nonthreatening examples you can show your partner. One of the biggest furry conventions in the world, Anthrocon, is actually in Pittsburgh.

PhIIRST has extensive experience serving marginalized communities. Our approach is free of judgment and helps people love and accept themselves and nurture their relationships. We have locations in Center City and Media, Pennsylvania. Visit www.phiirst.com to learn more.

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REUTERS

Democrats pounce as Trump administration ratchets up attack on Obamacare

The Justice Department is supporting a federal judge's ruling that the Affordable Care Act violates the U.S. Constitution.

Top congressional Democrats on Tuesday attacked a legal move by the Trump administration to step up its assault on the Obamacare health care law, saying last November's elections showed Americans want them to protect the Affordable Care Act.

The Justice Department, in a two-sentence letter to the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals filed on Monday, said it backed a federal judge's ruling in December that the Affordable Care Act violated the U.S. Constitution because it required people to buy health insurance.

The letter said the Justice Department would file a more extensive legal briefing later.

Democrats said the move to overturn Obamacare would overshadow Republican President Donald Trump's claim of victory following the conclusion of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's probe of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. The legal filing gave Democrats a natural opening to focus on an issue they say is more important to voters than the Mueller investigation.

"We always felt that the issues that affect average Americans — health care, climate change, jobs — [are] far more important to them, and to us, than what happens in an investigation," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer told reporters.

Democrats made defending Obamacare a powerful messaging tool in the run-up to November's elections, when opinion polls showed eight in 10 Americans wanted to defend its most popular benefits, including protections for insurance coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. The strategy paid off, and Democrats won a 38-seat majority in the House of Representatives.

The 2010 health care law, seen as the signature domestic achievement of Trump's Democratic predecessor, Barack Obama, has been a flashpoint of American politics since its passage, with Republicans, including Trump, repeatedly attempting to overturn it.

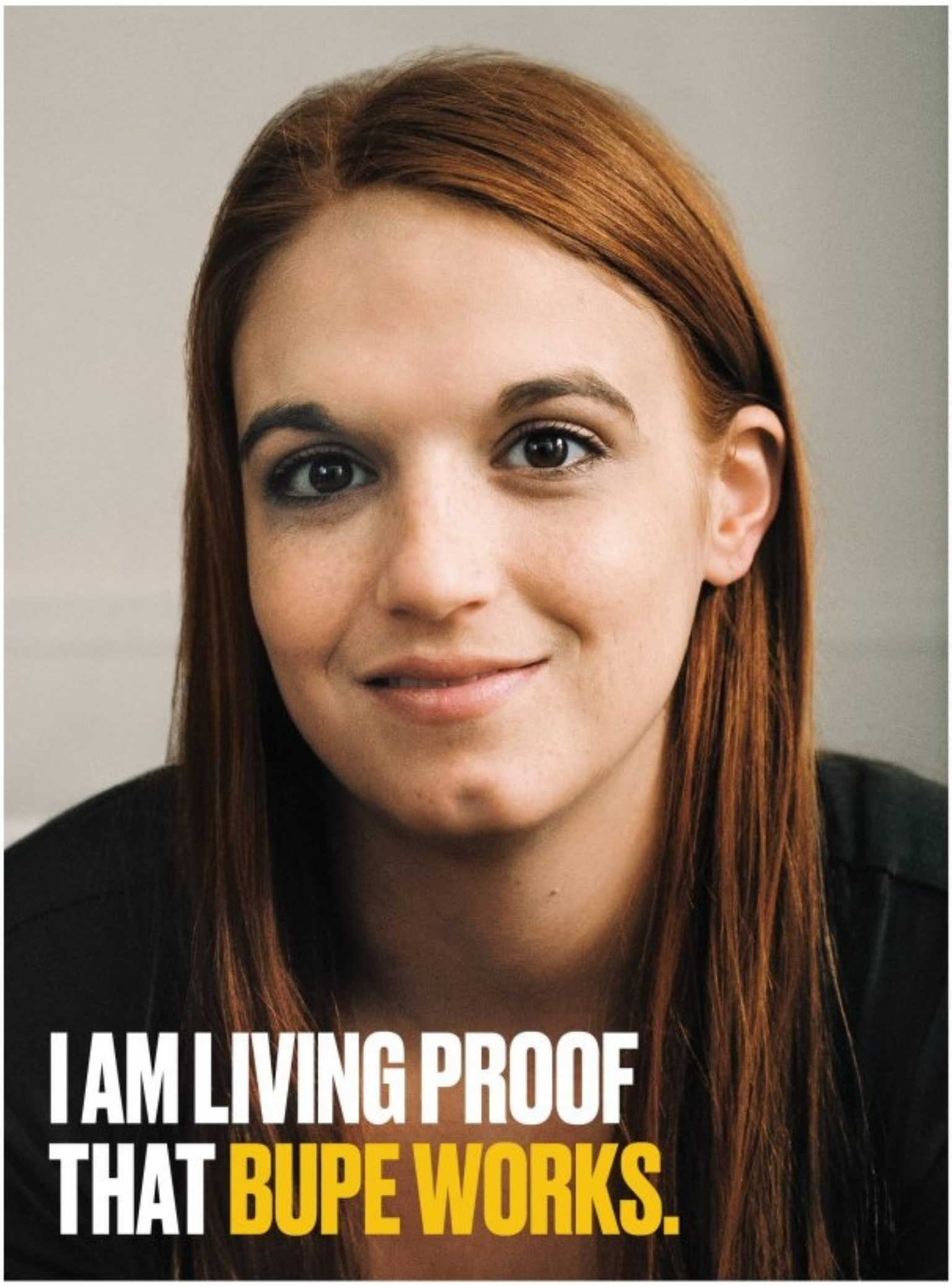
"The Republican Party will soon be known as the party of health care — you watch."
President Trump

Previously, the Trump administration had said portions of Obamacare should be struck down and others should survive, including a state-led expansion of Medicaid health insurance for the poor. Trump had said he would not cut that aspect when campaigning for the White House, although his 2020 budget proposal slashed the program's funding.

"The Republican Party will soon be known as the party of health care — you watch," Trump told reporters upon arriving at the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday for lunch with Republican lawmakers. He offered no details.

One of the first moves Democrats made after regaining control of the House was intervening in the Texas lawsuit to rebut the claim brought by a coalition of 20 Republican-led states. Texas, Alabama, Florida and the 17 other states had said a Trump-backed change to the U.S. tax code made Obamacare unconstitutional.

REUTERS



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Trump tells Russia to get its troops out of Venezuela

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday called on Russia to pull its troops from Venezuela and said that "all options" were open to make that happen.

The arrival of two Russian air force planes outside Caracas on Saturday believed to be carrying nearly 100 Russian special forces and cybersecurity personnel has escalated the political crisis in Venezuela.

Russia and China have backed President Nicolas Maduro, while the United States and most other Western countries support opposition leader Juan Guaido. In January, Guaido invoked the constitution to assume Venezuela's interim presidency, arguing that Maduro's 2018 re-election was illegitimate.

"Russia has to get out," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office, where he met with Guaido's wife, Fabiana Rosales.

Asked how he would make Russian forces leave, Trump said: "We'll see. All options are open."

Maduro, who retains control of state functions and the country's military, has said Guaido is a puppet of the United States.

Russia has bilateral relations and agreements with Venezuela and Maduro that it plans to honor, Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador, Dmitry Polyanskiy, said on Twitter.

A spokeswoman for Russia's Foreign Ministry, Maria Zakharova, said the United States should pull troops from Syria before telling Moscow to withdraw from Venezuela.

"Before giving advice to somebody to withdraw from somewhere, the United States should bring to life its own concept of exodus, particularly from Syria," Zakharova said, speaking on Russia's state Channel One, TASS agency quoted her as saying.

Venezuela's economy is in tatters, with food and medicine in short supply due to years of hyperinflation. In addition, citizens are now grappling with power blackouts that experts have blamed on years of neglect and maintenance.

Earlier this year, the Trump administration slapped sanctions on state-owned oil company Petroleos de Venezuela, known as PDVSA, to try to cut off revenues to Maduro. Oil provides 90 percent of export revenue for Venezuela, an OPEC member. Trump has said tougher sanctions are still to come.

"TRYING TO BREAK OUR MORALE"

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told lawmakers on Wednesday that rebuilding after Maduro leaves office would be expensive.

> **"Before giving advice to somebody to withdraw, the United States should bring to life its own concept of exodus."**
>
> Spokeswoman for Russia's Foreign Ministry

"The day and week after is going to be a long process," Pompeo said. "I've seen estimates between $6 (billion) and $12 billion to repair" the economy, he said.

The Trump administration has asked Congress for up to $500 million in foreign aid to help "support a democratic transition in Venezuela," Pompeo said in written testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives.

At the White House, Rosales, Guaido's wife, told Trump and Vice President Mike Pence that food shortages in Venezuela were hurting children.

"They are trying to break our morale. They want to submerge us in eternal darkness. But let me tell you that there is light, and the light is here," said Rosales, a 26-year-old journalist and opposition activist. REUTERS

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Cardi B vows to be a 'better me' after defense of past crimes

The Grammy Award-winning artist admits to drugging and robbing men while she was a stripper.

REUTERS

Rapper Cardi B has admitted to drugging and robbing men while working as a stripper, but defended her past actions saying she had limited options at the time, and vowed to "be a better me" in the future.

The feisty "I Like It" singer, who shot to fame in the past two years, was responding in an Instagram post after a video surfaced that was recorded three years ago in which she spoke about going with men to a hotel with the expectation of sex, and drugging and robbing them.

The video sparked a backlash on social media under the hashtag #survivingcardib, with some users comparing her past actions with male singers who have been accused of sexual misconduct against women.

In her Instagram posting on Tuesday, Cardi B, 26, said there were "things in my past, right or wrong, that I felt I needed to do to make a living."

"I'm a part of hip-hop culture where you can talk about where you come from, talk about the wrong things you had to do to get where you are," she added.

Cardi B, who won her first Grammy Award in February, has previously spoken about working as a stripper for several years from the age of 19.

The singer said she did not put her past behavior into her music because "I'm not proud of it and feel a responsibility not to glorify it. I made the choices that I did at the time because I had very limited options."

Cardi B is married to fellow rapper Offset and the couple have a nine-month-old daughter.

"All I can do now is be a better me for myself, my family and my future," she wrote. REUTERS

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Toddlers gain more from printed books than from e-books

When grown-ups are reading to toddlers, they have more meaningful conversations when the stories are in traditional printed books than when stories are in e-books, researchers found.

Results of the small experiment suggest story time with tablets may not be as good for kids' development.

Pediatricians recommend against any screen time at all for children under age 2. They warn that tablets, smartphones and digitally-enhanced toys and games can get in the way of creative play and interactions with caregivers that are essential for social, emotional and cognitive growth.

But many parents who don't sit kids down to watch cartoons or play video games may still use tablets to read e-books to young kids. E-books can be more convenient than cramming lots of board books in a diaper bag. Many parents also believe

ISTOCK

reading apps and interactive e-books can make it easier for kids to learn their ABCs.

"We know shared book reading is such an amazing developmental activity to engage in with children — not only by exposing children to rich language and vocabulary, but also by providing opportunities for physical closeness and creating moments to bond," said lead study author Dr. Tiffany Munzer of the University of Michigan's C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

"Parents and toddlers know how to engage over a book, but when adding a tablet into the mix, it deflects from some of the positive benefits of that shared reading experience," Munzer said by email. "That isn't to say there is no benefit to electronic books, just less than when you compare it with a print book."

For the study, Munzer's team videotaped 37 parent-child pairs during reading sessions done in a lab. Parents read similar stories in three different formats: traditional printed books, e-books without any bells and whistles, and "enhanced" e-books with extra features like sound effects or animation.

With printed books, parents talked to kids much more about the stories. Toddlers also spoke up more to ask questions and share their own opinions and ideas about the stories when parents were reading from printed books.

Enhanced e-books sparked more interactions than e-books without any bells and whistles. REUTERS

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Mumps outbreak at Temple University reaches 105 cases

"We're expecting a third wave," school official says.

MICHAEL MARTIN
letters@metro.us

ISTOCK

The mumps outbreak at Temple University is now in the triple digits.

Officials are reporting 105 cases of the contagious viral disease: 18 confirmed and 87 suspected. All of them are associated with the university, which first reported the outbreak at the end of February with four cases.

To stem the spread, Temple is holding two walk-in vaccination clinics this week. "I think we have a handle on it, but we're expecting a third wave," Mark Denys, the school's student health director, told CBS 3 on Wednesday.

Temple students and faculty will be able to get the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) shot free of charge at the clinics. One was held Wednesday; another will be on Friday in Temple's Mitten Hall's Great Court from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The number of reported cases has doubled since March 17.

"Because of the nature of mumps — it can take up to three weeks for someone who was exposed to become symptomatic — we realize that the outbreak will continue for a while longer, but hope that these clinics help bring it to a close," said James Garrow, a spokesperson for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, in a statement.

About 1,000 people have gotten booster shots at Temple already. The city health department is investigating whether there was a stem cause of the outbreak, like a school social event, CBS 3 reported.

"No appointments necessary! Hope to see you there, Owls," @TempleUOEM tweeted on Monday, along with the hashtags #tuready #templeuniversity #publichealth #mumps.

Early symptoms of mumps include fever, headache, muscle aches, lethargy, and loss of appetite, followed by the disease's telltale swelling of salivary glands, which causes puffy cheeks and a swollen jaw. The disease is spread through droplets of the virus, much like the common cold: via coughing or sneezing, by saliva, and through contaminated surfaces such as doorknobs.

Recovery is similar to that of chicken pox — there is no treatment, only symptom relief such as rest and over-the-counter painkillers. There is little risk of serious complications in healthy people, but experts say that anyone who is immunocompromised or pregnant should contact their doctor immediately if they have symptoms.

HEALTH FAQ

Q: What are the symptoms of the mumps?
A: Generally speaking, the first day or two of symptoms are not really that different from other common infections. They are very flu-like, so typically people have fever, headache and muscle aches. Those symptoms usually last for one to two days, and then after that, you start to get swelling of the salivary glands. The most common one is the parotid gland, which is located a little in front of ears and down a little. Swelling can occur on one or both sides—usually both. Some people will only have a cough and their salivary glands will never swell, but that's relatively uncommon.

Q: How are the mumps treated?
A: Treatment is all about trying to make the symptoms better. Sometimes Tylenol, sometimes drugs like Advil, Motrin or Aleve. Some specialists suggest warm or cold compresses for the face.

Q: How does mumps compare with other infectious diseases, like the flu and measles?
A: In general, the severity of the flu is similar to that of the mumps, where there are rarely severe complications, but you generally feel horrible and can't get out of bed for several days, but then you get better. Roughly speaking, an average kind of flu and an average case of mumps are similarly uncomfortable. Measles is different—it is more dangerous.

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HARD

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Pat King
Grumble Editor

READER WRITE-INS:

RECKLESS DADS!
I do not understand why fathers walk down the street carrying their toddlers on their shoulders with the child's legs wrapped around their necks. I cringe every time I see this. One trip or fall from the father and the child will go flying onto the concrete, headfirst. Let your child walk or put them in a stroller!

— **Anonymous**, *Metro US reader*

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Aries Listen to others, assess your situation and figure out how you can best use the information you've been given. Subtle changes will serve you best.

Taurus You will make your voice heard if you speak from the heart. Valuable information will be offered if you reconnect with a former co-worker or friend.

Gemini Take on what matters, but don't push yourself to the point of exhaustion. Know when to let go and when to strike. Timing is everything when it comes to success.

Cancer You can bring about positive change if you volunteer to help a cause. Take steps to improve your surroundings. Don't wait for someone else to make the first move.

Leo Don't make a change on a whim. Know what you are up against and plan your actions strategically. Following what someone else says or does will lead to a costly mistake.

Virgo Stay focused. You've got what it takes to reach your goal, as long as you don't let someone talk you into going overboard. Stick to your original plan.

Libra Be careful what you promise or agree to. Someone will take advantage of you if you are too accommodating. Learn from your mistakes and don't let yourself be exploited.

Scorpio Set your goal and don't stop until you reach your destination. Traveling, forming partnerships and making personal changes are favored. Personal gain, love and romance are heading your way.

Sagittarius Stick to what you know and do best. If someone tries to coerce you into something you shouldn't do, have enough sense to say no. Look after your own interests.

Capricorn It's time for a change. Consider what is working for you and what isn't, and replace the negatives with positives. Life is about choices, so make a good one.

Aquarius Don't let anger take charge or allow anyone to take advantage of you. Focus on what's best for you and proceed quietly until you have reached your goal. Put yourself first.

Pisces Involvement in self-help groups and volunteering your time for a cause you believe in will lead to interesting connections. A reunion will open doors that were closed in the past. EUGENIA LAST

Gourmet hot dogs from Nick's Bar & Grille

Delicious deals that are a home run

Top Philly spots are offering tasty deals and specials for the Phillies home opener.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

Spring is officially here, and that means the Phillies are back and in full swing. To honor the home opener this Thursday, March 28, some top Philly spots are offering deals for Phanatics. There are hot dog specials, free stadium deliveries, half-price apps and so much more—here is where you need to be to truly celebrate opening day the right way.

P'unk Burger's root beer float ALL PHOTOS AVERSA PR

Nick's Bar & Grille
This Old City hotspot is celebrating the Phillies home opener with plenty of enticing specials and gourmet hot dogs. Guests can take advantage of $1.90 Yuengling Lager drafts, $3 Bud Light drafts and $12 beer buckets while also indulging in the hot dog selection. Dog options include the Oink (pulled pork, cheddar, frizzled onions jalapeños and bistro sauce $4), the Dutchie (caramelized apples and onions, kraut and brown mustard $4) and the Texan (bacon, cheddar, frizzled onions, jalapeños and chipotle aioli $4). Nick's will be playing the game with the sound on at the bar and in dining room.
16 S. 2nd St., nicksroastbeefbarandgrille.com

BRU Craft & Wurst
Although the home opener starts at 3:05, BRU is kicking off specials at 2 p.m. March 28. Phanatics can view the game with the sound on while also indulging in dollar dogs including the $1 Plain Jane, $1 Vegan Jawn, $2 Chicago and $2 Texas Tommy. Drink specials include $3 Allagash White and Captain Lawrence Oktojawn drafts and $3 drafts of a Pale Ale and an IPA.
1316 Chestnut St., bruphilly.com

Tradesman's
This Center City hotspot offers an amazing location to watch the game with a giant ten-foot tall media wall and two 65 inch televisions on both sides downstairs and two giant HD televisions in the mezzanine lounge and bar upstairs. There is plenty of seating throughout the venue both indoors and outdoors, all with great views of the action. During the home opener guests can also enjoy half-priced apps such as $5 smoked onion dip, $6 Buffalo wings and $6 loaded potato skins, plus refreshing $3 house custom drafts.
1322 Chestnut St., tradesmansphl.com

Stove and Tap
Stove and Tap is celebrating the Phillies home opener with specials such as the dollar dog (a classic 6" ballpark dog with a hot dog bun and condiments on the side) and the cheesesteak and fries combo (a tap smoked cheesesteak with ribeye, beer cheese, cherry peppers, caramelized onions and a side of fries for $8). Throughout the rest of the season, the popular eatery will also be offering a $10 cheesesteak and lager combo available at the bar only.
29 W. Main St., Lansdale, stoveandtap.com

P'unk Burger
This Passyunk Avenue hotspot is starting off baseball season the right way- with $1 root beer floats, dollar dogs and $1 order of fries with any burger. Plus on opening day P'unk will also debut a new hot dog made with grilled salami, American cheese, fried onions and tomatoes for $1. But that's not all, throughout the season P'unk is also offering free stadium delivery to tailgaters outside Citizen's Bank Park for orders of $40 or more. Call 215-468-7865 for delivery and please have your lot number and cross street information handy if interested.
1823 Passyunk Ave., punkburger.com

SliCE
SliCE is celebrating opening day with a delicious offer- anyone who purchases any large specialty pizza or gluten-free pizza will also get a free small pie as well. The free small pie is available through dine-in, take-out, standard delivery and free stadium delivery. That's right, SliCE is also offering up free stadium delivery to all tailgaters on opening day and throughout the remainder of the season (from the South Philly location). The South Philly location will also have the game on in the dining room.
various locations, slicepa.com

The Bottle Shop
Head to the Bottle Shop on Passyunk Avenue to indulge in some fabulous specials from 2pm-8 pm. Any Philadelphian can indulge in happy hour specials on opening day including $1 off drafts, $1 off wine by the glass and $1 off beer flights.
1616 E. Passyunk Ave., bottleshopbeer.com

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Comedy with no expiration date

Luenell Campbell talks Showtime's new show "Funny Women Of A Certain Age"

MOLLY GIVEN
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Luenell Campbell stars in Showtime's new all-female driven comedy show. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

If you're a fan of insanely uninhibited, raw and relatable comedy, Showtime has got the show for you. The network partnered with comedian Carole Montgomery to break barriers with "Funny Women of a Certain Age." The show features all women, all over the age of 50 and all fabulous.

Luenell Campbell is one of the talented female comics gracing the stage with her stand-up and she gave Metro the scoop on what to expect from the new show, how 50 is the new 35 and why women in comedy still need to fight for the opportunities they deserve.

How did you get involved with "Funny Women at a Certain Age"?
Purely because Carole Montgomery—who is the brainchild of all of this- reached out to me. I wasn't real familiar with her before, but she reached out to me and that's how I got involved.

What were your initial thoughts when you heard the show was an all-female cast?
I was very much on board. Because this has never been done before- all females over 50. That's the important thing to note because that's why it's called "Funny Women Of A Certain Age." I was very excited about that because I feel that we have to put good images out there about what 50 looks like these days. 50 is not 80, 50 is not 90, 50 is more like 35 or 40. That's the new 50, and I thought that was very exciting.

Do you think there is still a stigma regarding female comedians?
There's a huge stigma still. Just the fact that they still think women don't draw people in. I sell out a lot of places that I go too. They think women are not as funny as guys and they certainly don't pay us what we're worth.

Throughout the years, how has your comedy changed?
I think that after having a child and being married and getting older, having ailments set in and weight set in- my comedy is more relatable now than it ever was.

What are some of your career high points and low points?
Well, high points have always been working with wonderful people that you admire and have looked at and never thought you would get to meet. Working with Sandra Bullock, working with Adam Sandler, working with Sacha Baron Cohen and working with Will Packer who did "Think Like A Man" 1 and 2 and all the stars involved with that film. Also doing voice-over work for animation, acquiring my residency in Las Vegas recently- those have been very high points for me. Some of the low points have been being a mother and missing my daughter's prom, not being around when she was sick, not being around when the time came to fill out paperwork for college, things like that have been the low points to me.

Everyone in the cast is extremely talented; Carole Montgomery knocked it out of the park with the lineup. Are there any female comedians you would bring in if you made your own lineup?
Sure, I could name people that you probably don't know exactly who they are.

I like this Christian comedian named, well we used to call her Small Fry, her name now changed to Small Fire. She's the funniest Christian comic I have ever heard in my entire life—she's so funny. I'm also a fan of Torrei Hart, who is Kevin Hart's ex-wife. I like Sherri Shepherd and Kym Whitley, I'm not sure if they're exactly women I would put on tour if I used them together but they are certainly women that I admire and like.

You know, I do have to say if I really had to put my dream team together, part of it can't happen because Joan Rivers is already gone. But I would have Joan Rivers, and I would have Roseanne— all the politics excluded and just the comedy of yesteryear. So Joan and Roseanne and myself- and maybe Marsha Warfield, who's very funny and also has a residency in Las Vegas right now. I like the older comics anyway, more so than the newer ones.

Overall what can audiences expect from the show?
I think the title says it, just funny women of a certain age. It depends on the audience that you're speaking to but I hope everyone will watch it, men included. This is not a show done by women only for women, this is a show done by women for everyone. It's just funny, it's not for straight people, it's not for gay people, not for black or white. It's just funny and everybody can benefit from watching it and find out that there are funny women out here who are making a steady living talking into a microphone.

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Unit# 4003 Damion Doctor
Unit# 4036 Cortney Lebeda
Unit# 6030 Maurice Hall
Unit# 6040 Melvin Lambert
Unit# 7101 Kennedy Nellom
Unit# 8110 Joy Pierce
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Christof Putzel demands the truth on Travel Channel's 'Mission Declassified'

The celebrated journalist tells us about his new show and the big questions he's dying to answer.

PAT KING
patrick.king@metro.us

A behind-the-scenes look at host Christof Putzel with Jack Brooks and Michael Moneur as they prepare the raft to travel from Alcatraz to Angel Island, as seen on Travel Channel's "Mission Declassified." PROVIDED

Journalist Christof Putzel doesn't like not being able to see the whole picture. Through almost 20 years as an investigative journalist and documentarian, most notably with Current TV and Al Jazeera, his work has taken him all over the globe in search of answers to some of life's unanswered questions. With his new show on Travel Channel, "Mission Declassified," Putzel continues this work by looking back at some of history's most frustrating unanswered cold cases such as the escape from Alcatraz, the real identity of hijacker D.B. Cooper, and the Lindbergh baby kidnapping.

According to Putzel, he was pretty apprehensive at first when he was approached to do the show.

"I've been an investigative journalist for almost 20 years now and I've done documentaries from around the world in all kinds of news," says Putzel. "I was working with this production company who had this idea of doing the show on Travel Channel, which would be me looking into cold cases. Some of the most famous cases like D.B. Cooper, escape from Alcatraz. My reaction at first, to be perfectly honest, was 'Come on, are we really breaking the table with these stories that have been looked at so many times before?'"

All of Putzel's skepticism started to wash away as he and his team started to research their first assignment: The escape from Alcatraz. In their findings, they were able to find evidence debunking the long-held belief that prisoners Frank Morris and brothers John and Clarence Anglin had drowned as they tried to swim ashore to the San Francisco Bay after breaking free from the prison in the summer of 1962. Putzel and his team were able to find — through declassified FBI files, their own findings, and other sources — evidence placing these convicts in Brazil after their escape and even traveled abroad to chase down their leads.

While Putzel is tirelessly making his way through the backlog of some of the world's most infamous unsolved mysteries, are there any cold cases that he would like to see solved during his lifetime? That is, if he can't get to them on his show, of course. With so many choices, Putzel feels obligated to do his family proud.

"I think one story that I've been passionate about for my whole life that we actually got to dig into was the Lindbergh baby kidnapping," explains Putzel. "My grandfather [Samuel G. Blackman] broke that story and went to his grave believing that he got it correct. That it was this one guy and he alone kidnapped the baby and he was the one who it was pinned on, and he got electrocuted for it. I've always wanted to look into it and say 'okay, then why is it so controversial?' That's why it was so interesting going back to digging into this, what he was working with at the time. Going into his mindset of being this 27-year-old journalist who at the time was covering the biggest celebrity in the world in the trial of the century, and the pressure of being the only journalist and witness of the guy being executed that the crime was pinned on. Just having that on his conscience for the rest of his life, you know, I think it takes the passage of time to go look in and revisit some of these stories. And that one we're still trying to get to the bottom of. I think we've moved the needle quite a ways."

New episodes of "Mission Declassified" premiere on Travel Channel every Sunday at 10 p.m.

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PAT KING
patrick.king@metro.us

While it seems as though winter is taking its sweet time clearing out of the East Coast for spring to revitalize our cold bones, it might be the perfect time to plan a quick little getaway to remind yourself that warmer weather is, you know, still a real thing.

Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa in Vieux Fort, Saint Lucia is just what the doctor ordered to wipe away your winter blues.

Located just five minutes from the Hewanorra International Airport, there will be no delay in starting your warm adventure as soon as you arrive at Saint Lucia's award-winning premium all-inclusive resort. And what an adventure it will be!

For those who choose to make this a romantic getaway, there are really few places quite as magical as Saint Lucia with its world-famous Pitons and, if you dare, a drive-in volcano!

In fact, the Harmony wing at the Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa is the perfect experience for couples as it is completely adults-only, featuring two pools with wait service, hammocks and sun tracker beds for two, and an oceanfront Spa. Delicious premium cocktails are available to guests wherever they choose to unwind and are served at pools from the Harmony Bar.

During their stay, Harmony couples will be treated to sweeping ocean views in both the Concierge Junior Suites and Concierge Premium Ocean View rooms featuring their own private balconies, Wi-Fi, turndown service, and personalized mini-bars.

Once you leave your room, you will find that the perks at this resort are endless. With nine restaurants that serve unlimited à la carte and buffet-style menus and seven different bars offering libation you are in the mood for, Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa has you covered.

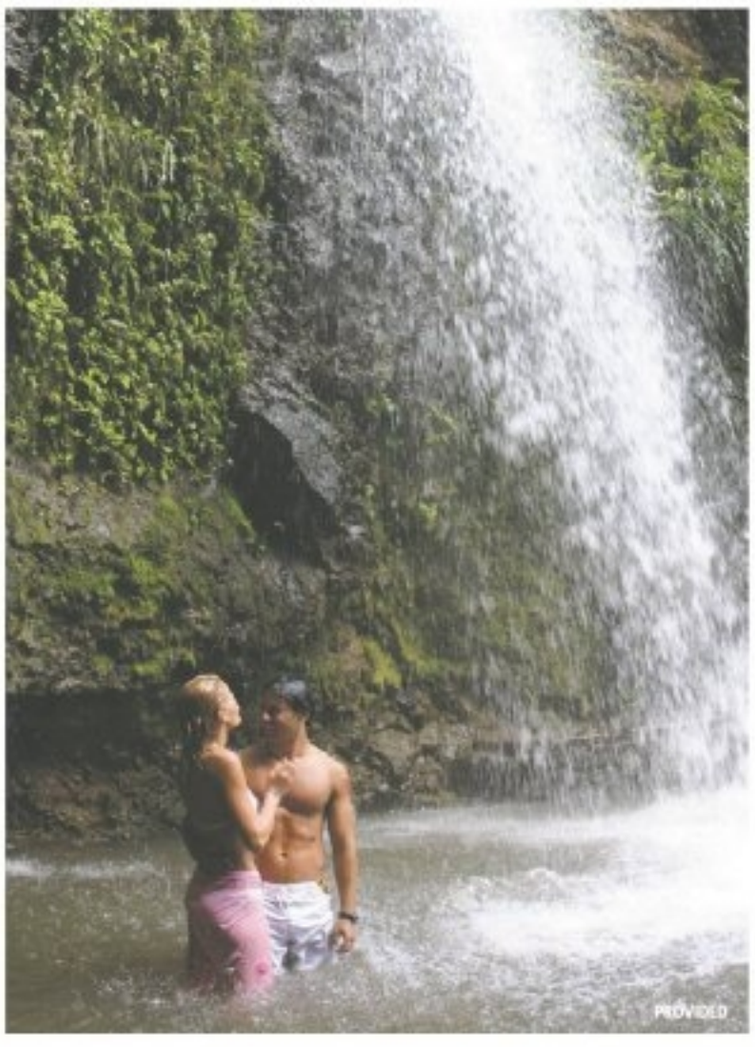
KIKOR

When you've had your fill, you can head down to the resort's award-winning CocoLand Waterpark for a trip around its relaxing Lazy River or a lightning fast trip down the Coconut Cannon slide and splash into the CocoLand Plunge Pool.

If you feel like exploring, the resort offers horseback and Segway rides so that you can check out the 85-acre property and its mile-long beach, tropical gardens, and panoramic ocean views.

And if relaxing at the resort isn't quite helping you get rid of your woes from back home, a round of capture the flag at the resort's 25,000 square-foot paintball course will help surely help before you head poolside or beachside for another cocktail.

And as you're in one of the world's most picturesque islands you should definitely explore Saint Lucia. The concierge at Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa can set you up with myriad activities including trips to the world-famous Pitons, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a breathtaking catamaran ride with snorkeling at the Pitons, ziplining, a drive-in adventure through a volcano, playing in a mud bath, swimming in a waterfall, a stroll through the rainforest, and a plantation tour by ATV.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MLB is back with betting options galore

Get in on some Phillies- and Harper-specific bets now.

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

GETTY IMAGES

It's been quite interesting to watch the Phillies' ascent to become one of the favorites to win the 2019 World Series from the final out of last year's Fall Classic to today, Opening Day.

Locally, as you can imagine, there is even more faith that the Phils will bring home the Commissioner's Trophy this fall.

Here are DraftKings Sportsbook's (New Jersey) most-bet-on teams to win the 2019 World Series by money wagered:

1. **Yankees**
2. **Phillies**
3. **Mets**
4. **Nationals**
5. **Astros**

According to DraftKings, the Yankees are receiving an incredible 39 percent of all money and 30 percent of all bets on the World Series. This is a team that bowed out in four games in the ALDS last season and made nowhere near the amount of improvements as the Phillies.

But again, it's not surprising considering that these bets were taken in New Jersey. You'll also see the Mets right behind the Phillies on this list and the Mets have an average of the 13th-best odds of winning it all at most books. Southern New Jersey took a bunch of Nationals bets as well, despite the team having the 10th-best odds of a 2019 title and having lost the greatest player in its franchise's history in Harper.

PHILLIES/HARPER UNIQUE BETS

PointsBet (New Jersey) is running some special Opening Day promotions centered on Harper. They are:

Harper HRs over 34.5 -125
Harper RBIs over 94.5 +100
Harper BA over .274 -112

To take advantage of this offer, go to: **tinyurl.com/y433dxvr**.

DraftKings is offering MLB "series betting" this year, in which you bet on which team will win more games in a three- or four-game series (tie voided). Here are the odds for Phillies vs. Braves: PHL (-200) ATL (+163).

To take advantage of this offer, go to: **tinyurl.com/y5j9xmk6**.

TWEET OF THE DAY

Cousin Sal
@TheCousinSal

People are bummed that there haven't been many upsets in the tourney this year. I'd actually trade a weekend of crappy games for a more competitive sweet 16 with stronger teams. #SorryAnteaters

Best Bets

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Atlanta Braves +175 at Philadelphia Phillies -185

Despite going 80-82 last season and finishing third in the division, the Phillies are now the team to beat in the NL East because of their offseason additions. Andrew McCutchen, Jean Segura, J.T. Realmuto and Bryce Harper should all be in the starting lineup and the Phillies have their ace, Aaron Nola, on the hill. Atlanta would have liked to start Mike Foltynewicz, but he's on the injured list so they will turn to Julio Teheran, who had a 5.14 ERA against the Phillies in four starts last season. Throw in the fact that the Phillies are 13-6 in their last 19 home games against the Braves and we're laying the price with them here to get the Opening Day win this afternoon.

THE PICK: Philadelphia Phillies

Sports betting 101: How to bet on baseball

Betting on baseball continues to grow quickly and is expected to be a $1.5 billion regulated betting market for the 2019 season. The main reason why betting on baseball is becoming popular is the vast frequency of regular-season games (2430 in MLB vs. 256 in the NFL).

There are a variety of bets available to make on a baseball game, but backing a team on the moneyline is the easiest baseball bet to understand as you simply pick one team to win.

In each MLB game there is a favorite and an underdog. The favorite is the team that the oddsmakers project to win. Their odds are represented by a minus sign followed by a three-digit number (Phillies -150). The underdog is the team the oddsmakers project to lose and their team odds are represented by a plus sign followed by a three-digit number (Mets +130).

Here's how the betting works in this example. Bet/risk $150 on Phillies (the favorite) to win $100 or bet/risk $100 on the Mets (the underdog) to win $130.

The sportsbook oddsmaker uses a variety of data and stats to set the line, however baseball odds are predominately determined by the starting pitchers.

For instance, when a pitcher like the Phillies' Aaron Nola (with a record of 17-6 in the 2018 season) is the starting pitcher, the Phillies will most often be the favorite.

Enjoy this upcoming baseball season and swing by your favorite sportsbook on the way to the ballpark to bet on your favorite team — and pitcher. **METROBET**

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Riding with Tennessee over Purdue

Breaking down tonight's Sweet 16 action.

HARRY MAYES

Harry Mayes is a sports betting expert and a longtime sports radio voice in Philadelphia. Mayes currently hosts a talk radio show on 97.3 ESPN in South Jersey.

After a lackluster first weekend of the NCAA Tournament that featured few outright upsets and buzzer beaters, the Sweet 16 round promises some great matchups with tight point spreads.

I'm excited about the South Region game between third-seeded Purdue and the 2-seed Tennessee Vols. Purdue is hot off of a blowout win over Villanova, 87-61, and Tennessee was lucky to survive a furious comeback from Iowa to advance 83-77 in OT. The Boilers are riding the hot-shooting hand of Carsen Edwards, who is shooting 46 percent from 3-point land and is averaging 34 points in his two tourney games (ODU, Villanova). Edwards is a volume shooter and his volume has been on high in the tourney where he has attempted 28 three-point field goals in two games, compared to having a 10 per-game average this season. If Edwards shoots the lights out again, the Vols will be in trouble as they have allowed their last six opponents to shoot 40 percent from beyond the arc.

GETTY IMAGES

Purdue's other guard, Ryan Cline, is also a good 3-point shooter (40.6 percent), attempting seven per game. The Vols will look to Lamonte Turner to shadow Edwards on the perimeter and Edwards is looking forward to the challenge, saying, "I'm taking it personally to come out and take on that matchup."

Turner did a nice job on Edwards when the Vols edged Purdue, 78-75, in an early-season tournament in the Bahamas last season, where Edwards went just 2-of-9 from beyond the arc.

The Vols are led by Grant Williams (18.8 ppg, 7.5 reb) and Admiral Schofield (16.4 ppg, 6 reb) but have five players who average double figures, so they can get scoring throughout their lineup. The Vols are a better two-point shooting team than Purdue (50 percent to 44.6 percent) and shoot better from the foul line (76 percent to 73 percent) while attempting 105 more foul shots. The point here is that the Vols don't have to rely as heavily on the 3-point shot as Purdue and if they shoot sub-par from 3, they can still manufacture offense. This matchup is very even in most categories and should be a close one on the scoreboard. If Edwards continues his "Kemba Walker" impersonation, the Vols will be in trouble; however, if the 3s aren't falling like they did against Villanova (16-of-30, 53.3 percent), the Boilers will have to rely on their defense to keep them in this game.

The Vols' second-half meltdown against Iowa, where they gave up a 25-point lead, will give head coach Rick Barnes a lot to ride his players about this week in practice and I believe they will be ready for this 40-minute showdown. Both teams take care of the basketball and Purdue has the hot player, but the Vols are slightly more complete and they know how to get to the free-throw line. I'm seeing the Vols as a one-and-a-half to two-point favorite and -120 on ML at most sportsbooks and I am riding Rocky Top to the Elite 8.

Pick - Tennessee moneyline

Sports on TV Highlights

3:00 pm	**MLB Baseball** Atlanta Braves vs. Philadelphia Phillies	NBC
7:00 pm	**NBA Basketball** Brooklyn Nets vs. Philadelphia 76ers	Sports Philadelphia
7:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Florida State vs. Gonzaga	CBS
7:30 pm	**Men's CBB** Purdue vs. Tennessee	tbs
9:40 pm	**Men's CBB** Texas Tech vs. Michigan	CBS
10:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Oregon vs. Virginia	tbs

Phillies and Sixers betting previews

MetroBet dishes out betting info for the Phillies' Opening Day tilt as well as Sixers versus Nets.

ATLANTA BRAVES AT PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

Philadelphia was last in baseball in hits per game (7.9) and had the third-most strikeouts per contest (9.4) a year ago. Bryce Harper, J.T. Realmuto, Andrew McCutchen and Jean Segura will surely change that around, and will help cut down on the fielding errors that plagued the Phillies in 2018. Rhys Hoskins moving to first base for the majority of the year could help him improve on both aspects of his game. Aaron Nola, Thursday starter, was 2-2 with a 2.30 ERA and 0.894 WHIP against the Braves in five starts last year. He should be able to hold down an Atlanta offense that was 15th in runs per game on the road last year (4.4). Braves starter Julio Teheran struggled against the Phillies in 2018, going 1-0 in four starts with a 5.14 ERA and 1.286 WHIP.

BROOKLYN NETS AT PHILADELPHIA 76ERS

The Nets have covered in four of their last five meetings with the Sixers. When these teams last played on Dec. 12, Brooklyn shot 50 percent from beyond the arc (28 shots) and pulled out a 127-124 outright victory as six-point underdogs. In three games with Philadelphia this season, D'Angelo Russell made 31 of 59 shots (52.5 percent) and added 21 total assists. Russell has been red-hot over his last five tilts, averaging 31.2 points while contributing 9.4 assists per contest.

Brooklyn enters this tilt on two days' rest, and per Covers.com, they're 12-3 against the spread in their last 15 games in this situation. Bettors may also want to consider taking the Over here. **ROBERT CRISCOLA**

VSiN DAILY LINE

MLB

ATLANTA BRAVES +175 VS. PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES -185

NBA

BROOKLYN NETS VS. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS -7.5

CBB

GONZAGA -7.5 VS. FLORIDA ST

TENNESSEE -1 VS. PURDUE

MICHIGAN -2 VS. TEXAS TECH

VIRGINIA -8.5 VS. OREGON

Phillies about to find out what 'stupid' money can buy in '19

Metro Philadelphia previews the 2019 Phillies season on Opening Day.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

Rhys Hoskins (left) and Bryce Harper (right) will look to power the Phillies toward contention in 2019. GETTY IMAGES

Today, Phillies fans will finally get to see what all that "stupid" money supplied by owner John Middleton got them.

The 2019 regular season begins this afternoon at Citizen's Bank Park where the Phillies host the reigning National League East champion Atlanta Braves.

It immediately provides a measuring stick for the Phils, who were major players in the free-agent market and on the trade scene.

After an 80-82 season which saw them finish third in the division, general manager Matt Klentak was given seemingly unlimited funds to upgrade the roster, which yielded some notable big names.

The biggest splash was obviously the landing of former Washington National Bryce Harper, inking the six-time All-Star and 2015 NL MVP to a monster 10-year, $330 million contract. He provides the Phillies with one of the most marketable names in baseball while providing a face of the franchise for the next decade.

It was temporarily the largest deal in baseball history until the Los Angeles Angels blew the doors off by extending Mike Trout's contract with a startling $430 million over 12 years.

Trout's extension ended any slim hope that he — a Millville, N.J., native who grew up rooting for Philadelphia sports teams — would make his way to the Phillies when he became a free agent in 2020.

Regardless, Harper was the final big addition to a team that made some serious strides toward contention after picking Andrew McCutchen, Jean Segura and JT Realmuto.

The NL East is expected to be one of the most competitive divisions in the game this season. Even with the loss of Harper, the Nationals are still expected to win near 90 games while the young Braves will continue developing into a force in the National League.

The Mets will continue to be one of the great unknowns of baseball as they have the pitching staff to keep them in most ball games with an offense that seems to be on the ascension. However, injuries and poor management continue to sabotage them.

Looking at the Phillies, it seems like they have the tools needed to put together a dominant offense, but there will continue to be concerns about the rotation and bullpen.

Manager Gabe Kapler will also be watched closely by the Phillies faithful in his second year after his decision-making was ridiculed at points throughout his debut season.

He has plenty more to work with this season, though, which has many believing that the Phillies can make a strong run toward the National League pennant if they can make it out of their division.

Metro takes an in-depth look at what to expect from the Phillies in 2019 and what story lines to watch out for as the season progresses.

Phillies
OPENING DAY
VS. BRAVES
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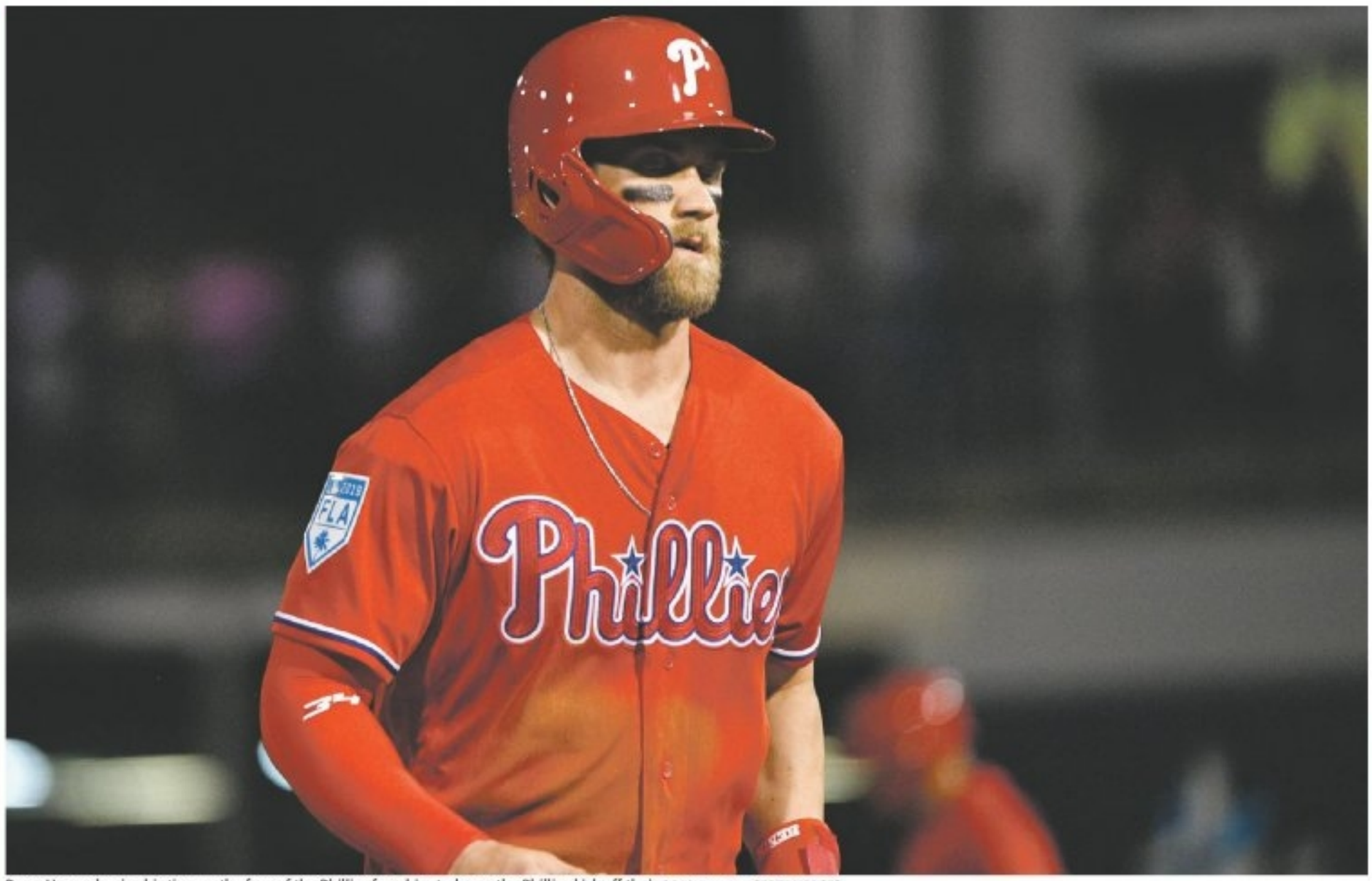

Bryce Harper begins his time as the face of the Phillies franchise today as the Phillies kick off their 2019 season. GETTY IMAGES

Welcome to the reign of Bryce Harper

The shiny new car in the Phillies' proverbial driveway will be wearing No. 3 and playing right field this season.

After a drawn-out, seemingly never-ending saga that was his free agency this offseason, Bryce Harper finally "settled" on signing with the Phillies in late February, awarding the franchise with the largest prize on the free-agent market.

The 26-year-old that is under team control for the next 10 years is just now entering his prime as a professional baseball player, which is an exciting thought for Phillies fans after watching him for the past seven years in Washington, D.C.

Harper is one of the biggest stars in the game that is bringing the Phillies one of its largest offensive threats in years.

This is a six-time All-Star that won an MVP award at just 22 years old and looks to be starting to put together the pieces of a Hall-of-Fame resume. He's slashing .279/.388/.512 with 184 home runs, which averages out to 32 round-trippers per 162 games.

However, there have been plenty of detractors who believe Harper simply isn't worth the exorbitant deal that was handed to him by the Phillies.

While some believe him to be one of the most feared hitters in baseball, Harper has been inconsistent, especially over the past four years.

After batting .330 during his MVP campaign in 2015, Harper's averaged dropped 87 points to .243 in 2016. It swung back up to .319 in 2017 only for it to sink to .249 last season.

The power numbers have been erratic as well as he followed up a 42-home run season in 2015 with 24 in 147 games the following year. He hit five more in 36 fewer games in 2017 and followed it up with 35 in 159 games.

In postseason play, Harper's numbers provide even more concern as he batted just .211 in 19 games with five home runs and 10 RBI.

Those numbers prompted a majority of baseball players polled by the Athletic to say that Harper is one of the most overrated players in the game today.

Inconsistencies like that are not going to fly in Philadelphia, especially for a team that is resting a majority of its postseason hopes on his shoulders. Harper's new home in Citizen's Bank Park is a hitter-friendly stadium that should provide a spike to his power numbers, especially down a right-field line that is just 330 feet.

In 50 career games at his new home, Harper is slashing .268/.365/.564 with 14 home runs and 32 RBI. That's approximately a 22-home-run pace over 81 games.

Let's hope Harper is more like a Lamborghini rather than a Daewoo.

In terms of his fellow outfielders, veteran Andrew McCutchen — who won an NL MVP of his own back in 2013 — will be manning left field with his new team. While his better days are behind him, McCutchen is still expected to be a serviceable offensive presence in the Phillies lineup after hitting 20 home runs with the San Francisco Giants and New York Yankees.

In center field, Odubel Herrera sacrificed average for power last season. While he put up a career-best 21 home runs with 71 RBI, his average was a career-worst .255.

2019 PHILLIES PROJECTED 25-MAN OPENING DAY ROSTER

PITCHERS
JOSE ALVAREZ
JAKE ARRIETA
S. DOMINGUEZ
ZACH EFLIN
ADAM MORGAN
HECTOR NERIS
PAT NESHEK
JUAN NICASIO
AARON NOLA
NICK PIVETTA
EDUBRAY RAMOS
D. ROBERTSON
VINCE VELASQUEZ

CATCHERS
ANDREW KNAPP
JT REALMUTO

INFIELDERS
MAIKEL FRANCO
CESAR HERNANDEZ
RHYS HOSKINS
SCOTT KINGERY
JEAN SEGURA

OUTFIELDERS
AARON ALTHERR
BRYCE HARPER
ODUBEL HERRERA
A. McCUTCHEN
NICK WILLIAMS

2019 PHILLIES PROJECTIONS: OUTFIELDERS

BRYCE HARPER (RF*)
.273 BA, 34 HR, 98 RBI

ODUBEL HERRERA (CF*)
.269 BA, 19 HR, 63 RBI

ANDREW MCCUTCHEN (LF*)
.260 BA, 22 HR, 70 RBI

AARON ALTHERR (OF)
.221 BA, 9 HR, 39 RBI

NICK WILLIAMS (OF)
.266 BA, 10 HR, 34 RBI

*DENOTES STARTER

Rhys Hoskins is expected to put up some big numbers in 2019 batting behind Bryce Harper in the Phillies lineup. GETTY IMAGES'

Rhys Hoskins poised to keep bashing in '19

The fanfare that has surrounded Harper since his arrival has many around baseball forgetting that the Phillies are primed for their very own version of the Bash Brothers.

As Harper is slated to be the team's No. 3 hitter in the lineup for the foreseeable future, Rhys Hoskins is prepared to continue building off a career year last season from the clean-up spot.

The 26-year-old began living up to those expectations as the organization's next big power hitter in 2018, finishing in the National League's top-10 with 34 home runs, 96 RBI, 38 doubles, and 72 extra base hits. His 16.4 average at-bats per home run also ranked 10th.

In fact, Hoskins and Yankees slugger Aaron Judge are the only players in Major League Baseball history to hit 40 home runs and walk 100 times in their first career 162 games.

While the focus will continue to be on Harper, especially during his first months in a Phillies uniform, Hoskins is projected to have a bigger season (see right of page).

Regardless of who has more home runs, Phillies fans can expect one of the most powerful home-run-hitting duos in at least a decade.

The 2009 Phillies boasted a trio of 30-plus-home-run hitters on their way to a National League pennant. Ryan Howard hit 45 dingers while Jayson Werth had 36 and Raul Ibanez added 34.

Metro's projections have Hoskins and Harper joining forces to combine for 73 home runs in 2019.

It will only further change Hoskins' opinion about Harper, as the first baseman didn't necessarily enjoy playing against the former National.

"I've come to learn that when he's on your team, you want that guy in your corner. You want that guy in your bunker when you're ready to go to war," Hoskins said of Harper. "He's an awesome dude. A great teammate. He slid right into this clubhouse culture and became a part of it."

Hoskins — who is set to exclusively play first base instead of splitting time in left field after the acquisition of Andrew McCutchen — will lead a set of infielders and catchers that will help round out an imposing Phillies lineup.

All-Star catcher JT Realmuto gives the Phillies a franchise catcher at just 28 years old, which was one of the team's most dire needs heading into the offseason. The former Marlin is considered by many as the top catcher in all of baseball, coming off a 2018 season in which he earned his first All-Star Game selection on his way to 21 home runs and 74 RBI in 125 games.

Philadelphia's other big acquisition of the offseason, second baseman Jean Segura, is set to be featured near the top of the lineup where he could develop into an All-Star once again.

Since 2016, Segura has batted .308 in 422 games with an average of 14 home runs per season. That number should swell at Citizen's Bank Park coming from larger stadiums like Safeco Field in Seattle or Chase Field in Arizona.

Third baseman Maikel Franco narrowly beat out Scott Kingery for the starting third-base job this season where manager Gabe Kapler already disclosed that he will bat eighth on Opening Day. Still, Franco possesses 20-plus-home-run power and has averaged 24 per season since 2016.

He'll be joined near the bottom of the lineup by second baseman Cesar Hernandez, who will be keen on proving that his .253 average last season — he had a .284 career mark prior to 2018 — was just a fluke while providing a high on-base-percentage option.

2019 PHILLIES PROJECTIONS: INFIELDERS AND CATCHERS

JT REALMUTO (C*)- .285 BA, 22 HR, 80 RBI

RHYS HOSKINS (1B*)- .248 BA, 37 HR, 107 RBI

JEAN SEGURA (2B*)- .305 BA, 17 HR, 62 RBI

MAIKEL FRANCO (3B*)- .253 BA, 22 HR, 78 RBI

CESAR HERNANDEZ (SS*)- .283 BA, 9 HR, 45 RBI

SCOTT KINGERY (IF)- .222 BA, 6 HR, 30 RBI

ANDREW KNAPP (C)- .218 BA, 3 HR, 13 RBI

*DENOTES STARTER

Nola leads questionable Phils pitching pool

While the Phillies allocated most of their assets toward improving their lineup, one of the largest unknowns surrounding the organization is the pitching staff.

Philadelphia is bringing back an almost-identical starting rotation and bullpen, which immediately shades their legitimacy as a contender toward uncertainty.

There is no denying that Aaron Nola is the ace of the starting rotation after his sterling 2018 season. The 26-year-old finished third in the National League Cy Young Award voting behind Jacob deGrom and Max Scherzer, going 17-6 with a 2.37 ERA and 224 strikeouts in 212.1 innings of work.

He is expected to have another strong showing in 2019 as Vegas is tabbing him to once again be in the top three of the NL Cy Young voting.

Aaron Nola leads a questionable Phillies pitching staff. GETTY IMAGES

The rest of the rotation remains uncertain, especially with veteran Jake Arrieta slated as the rotation's No. 2 arm. In the first installment of his three-year, $75 million deal with Philadelphia, the 33-year-old looked nothing like the righty that was among the National League's top pitchers a few seasons ago with the Chicago Cubs.

If the Phillies want to keep up with the stronger pitching sides in the division like the Mets and Nationals, they'll need Arrieta to regain some of that 2015 and 2016 form.

Things grow even more uneasy the further down you go on the rotational charts. Vince Velasquez, Nick Pivetta, and Zach Eflin are all projected to have ERAs around the 4.00 mark in 2019, which will only make Arrieta's performance all the more vital.

When it comes to the bullpen, we still really don't know Gabe Kapler's plans, especially when it comes to the closer role. David Robertson — the lone notable pitching acquisition for the Phillies this offseason — brings some much-needed legitimacy to the bullpen.

He adds some top-tier versatility to the pen, but it is unclear what his role will be. Robertson and Seranthony Dominguez could split time at closer while Pat Neshek adds a third established arm to the mix. Hector Neris also has late-game experience.

2019 PHILLIES PROJECTIONS: PITCHERS

STARTERS

AARON NOLA- 18-7, 2.97 ERA
JAKE ARRIETA- 13-9, 3.78 ERA
VINCE VELASQUEZ- 10-7, 3.99 ERA
NICK PIVETTA- 9-10, 4.02 ERA
ZACH EFFIN- 7-8, 4.31 ERA

BULLPEN

DAVID ROBERTSON- 2.77 ERA, 20 SAVES
SERANTHONY DOMINGUEZ- 2.59 ERA, 17 SAVES
PAT NESHEK- 3.04 ERA
HECTOR NERIS- 3.66 ERA
JUAN NICASIO- 3.08 ERA
ADAM MORGAN- 4.25 ERA
EDUBRAY RAMOS- 3.33 ERA
JOSE ALVAREZ- 3.92 ERA

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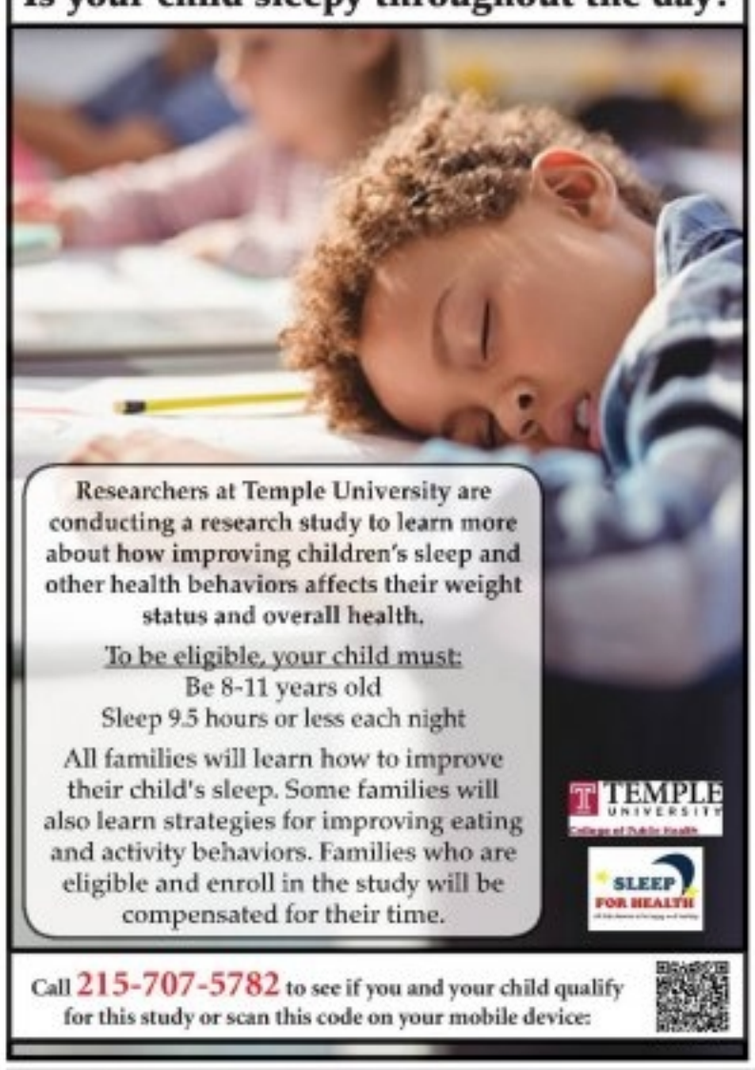

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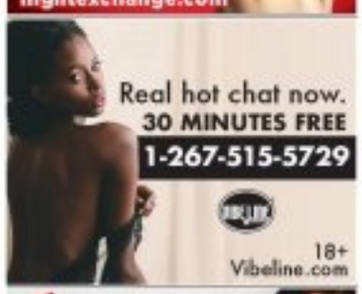
Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, January term, 2019, No. NC1901002 & No. NC1901003. Notice is hereby given that on January 15, 2019, the Petition for Change of Name, filed by Petitioner Latifah C. Wiggins, was filed praying for a decree to change the minor petitioners name from Kiyan Vincent Morris to Kiyan Liam Wiggins and Lauryn Avery Bennett to Lauryn Avery Wiggins. The Court has fixed April 4, 2019 at 9:00 AM, in Courtroom 6A, at Philadelphia Family Court, 1501 Arch St. Phila, PA 19102 as the time and place for the hearing of said Petition. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.



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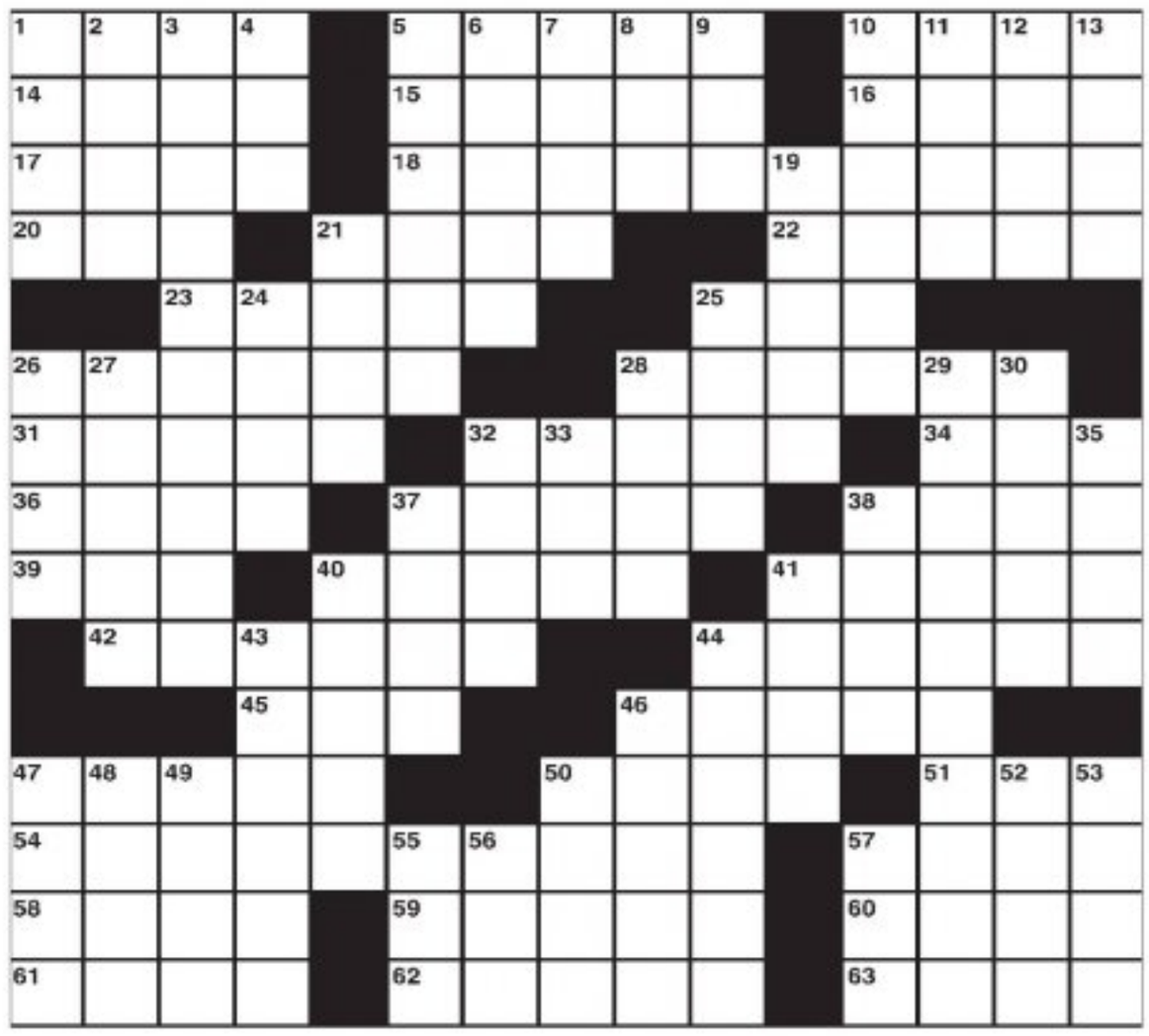

ACROSS

1 Quarrel
5 Lowly workers
10 Aberdeen resident
14 Gen. Robert __
15 Oakley or Potts
16 "There's no place like __!"
17 Citrus fruit
18 Analyzes again
20 Flowery ring
21 Sweet spreads
22 Large appliances
23 Poor
25 Gout site
26 Pain-killing drug
28 Terrible fright
31 Desires
32 __ song; TV show opener
34 Bekins truck
36 TV crime drama series
37 Gullible saps
38 Trait transmitter
39 __ up; arrange
40 Summoned with a beeper
41 Bart's mom
42 Bundle of energy
44 Said out loud
45 TV's "Who Do You Think You __?"
46 Singer Brooks
47 Freshwater fish
50 Irritate
51 Noah's boat
54 Sounds familiar
57 Factual
58 Hives symptom
59 Implement in a tureen
60 Unsightly
61 Sports event
62 Disrespectful
63 The Bee __

DOWN

1 __ on; report the misdeeds of
2 Nastase of tennis
3 Womanliness
4 Commission
5 Rose __; January 1 event
6 Foe
7 On __ own; independent
8 Veto
9 __ of Galilee; biblical lake
10 Tremble
11 Ice cream holder
12 Foreboding sign
13 Actress Harper
19 Mary Tyler __
21 New York team
24 Dines
25 Male turkeys
26 __ up; admits guilt
27 Walked the floor
28 __ on to; kept
29 Engage in price gouging
30 "Home on the __"
32 African nation
33 Garden tool
35 Requirement
37 Renown
38 Trot or canter, e.g.
40 Portions
41 Additional amount
43 All for __; to no avail
44 Lowland area
46 Fish's breathing organs
47 Cut off the edges of
48 Ceremony
49 __ in a blue moon; seldom
50 Cincinnati team
52 Regulation
53 Door openers
55 Pacino & Gore
56 Ewe's cry
57 Pull hard

BY TCA

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Z	P	G	S	R	I	P	F	V	O
E	M	A	F	E	H	T	Y	J	E
E	O	G	R	W	C	D	E	Z	N
K	N	A	G	T	A	N	C	J	O
E	S	U	A	L	P	P	A	U	H
A	T	D	B	O	O	O	F	D	P
Z	E	O	K	N	F	R	P	A	E
D	R	E	Q	U	M	T	Y	S	L
N	R	A	Z	J	O	A	N	N	E
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Category: Film Fusion

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7	3		2		6	9		
1	9		8				2	3
	6					7		4
2	1			6				
5			1	3	8			6
				5			7	1
6		3					8	
9	5				1		4	2
		1	3		9		6	7

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S	K	I		V	A	L			R	O	A	S	T	S
		S	C	E	N	T			O	U	T			
A	C	C	O	R	D			A	S	S	E	T	S	
C	A	R	V	E		B	E	L	I	E		U	P	S
T	R	E	E		R	E	A	P	S		T	R	I	O
S	E	E		F	E	A	R	S		L	I	B	E	L
	S	T	A	L	E	R			C	A	R	U	S	O
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